



BEVERLY EAVES PERDUE  
GOVERNOR

**EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 133**

**ALBEMARLE-PAMLICO NATIONAL ESTUARY PARTNERSHIP**

**WHEREAS**, Congress designated the Albemarle-Pamlico estuarine system “estuary of national significance” in 1987; and

**WHEREAS**, the Albemarle-Pamlico National Estuary Partnership (APNEP), formerly known as the Albemarle-Pamlico Estuary Program, is a cooperative effort established by the State of North Carolina and the United States Environmental Protection Agency in cooperation with the Commonwealth of Virginia; and

**WHEREAS**, the mission of APNEP is to identify, restore, and protect the significant resources in the Albemarle-Pamlico estuarine system; and

**WHEREAS**, APNEP is a collaborative effort involving state, federal, regional, local, educational, public, and private entities in the protection and enhancement of the Albemarle-Pamlico estuarine system; and

**WHEREAS**, APNEP was among the first National Estuary Programs to be designated by Congress under Section 320 of the Clean Water Act; and

**WHEREAS**, APNEP has provided extensive information and supported scientific research to address natural resource and environmental issues facing the Albemarle-Pamlico estuarine system since 1988; and

**WHEREAS**, scientific information from the Albemarle-Pamlico Estuarine Study (1987-1994) was combined with extraordinary involvement by citizens to develop a Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP) that was first adopted in 1994 and revised in 2012; and

**WHEREAS**, APNEP and its CCMP also recognize that from an ecological, societal, and economic standpoint, the most effective means to sustain environmental health of the Albemarle-Pamlico estuarine system is to identify, manage, and protect the resources in the watershed through adaptive, system-based approaches; and

**WHEREAS**, APNEP recognizes the importance of engaging and involving the public in making decisions regarding ecosystem-based management;